

Rainforest KS2 Knowledge Mat

Subject Specific Vocabulary

canopy	The canopy , which may be over 30 m above the ground, is made up of the overlapping branches and leaves of rainforest trees.
emergent layer	The emergent layer is the name given to the tops of trees that poke up above the rainforest canopy.
understory	The understory layer is a tangle of shrubs, young trees, saplings, palms and vines. It is hot and damp here and the air is very still.
deforestation	When forests are cut down and the area is permanently cleared for another use.
endangered	An endangered species is a species which has been categorized as very likely to become extinct.
Equator	An imaginary line around the middle of a planet halfway between the north and south pole.
Latitude	The measurement of part of the Earth in relation to the north or the south of the Earth's equator.
temperate	Relating to or denoting a region or climate characterized by mild temperatures.
extinction	The extinction of a species of animal or plant is the death of all its remaining living members.
destruction	The act of destroying something.
tropics	Regions of the Earth that lie in the middle of the globe. They include the equator and parts of North America, South America, Africa, Asia and Australia.



Sticky Knowledge

Only around 6% of the Earth's land surface is rainforest – but about half of all animal and plant species live there.

It can take ten minutes for a falling raindrop to travel from a rainforest's thick canopy to the floor.

Locate tropical & temperate rainforests – identifying the equator and tropics... Understand the significance of their location in relation to the equator.

Exciting Books

Possible books & Literacy links:
 The Great Kapok tree.
 Pongo
 Rainforest in 30 seconds
 Journey to the river sea
 Rainforest Calling

Where are the famous rainforests?

Amazon, Brazil

Australia, West Africa



Geography Skills:

- identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/ Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night)

Cross-curricular links: